

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02902 111227Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W
----- 095705

R 111045Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2902

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TU
SUBJ: REDUCTION IN JUSMMAT GENERAL/FLAG POSITIONS

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED OFFICIAL WORD THAT JCS HAS RECOMMENDED TO OSD THAT THREE OF THE FOUR JUSMMAT GENERAL/FLAG OFFICER POSITIONS HERE BE DOWNGRADED TO COLONEL EFFECTIVE MAY 1. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT THE PHRASE "EFFECTIVE MAY 1" MEANS THAT THE ORDERS DOWNGRADING THESE POSITIONS WOULD BE PUBLISHED ON OR ABOUT THAT DATE AND THAT THE PRESENT INCUMBENTS, REGARDLESS OF THE LENGTH OF TIME REMAINING IN THEIR TOUR, WOULD DEPART TURKEY SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. FOR MONTHS US EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS BEEN ASSURING TURKS OF IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO TURKISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND OF ITS OPPOSITION TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS UNDERMINING THIS PROGRAM. THIS, MORE THAN ANY OTHER FACTOR, HAS HELPED CONTAIN DAMAGE SO FAR OF CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF LEGISLATION. AT THIS POINT HIGHLY VISIBLE EXECUTIVE BRANCH-INITIATED DOWNGRADING OF OUR EFFORT HERE WILL APPEAR TO CAST DOUBT ON BONA FIDES OF OUR EARLIER STATEMENTS. IT WILL ALSO BE INTERPRETED IN IMPORTANT TURKISH QUARTERS AS AN ADVERSE REFLECTION OF OUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR REVERSAL OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL POLICY TOWARD TURKEY. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THESE HIGHLY VISIBLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02902 111227Z

REDUCTIONS BE EXPLAINED TO TURKS AS SIMPLY PART OF A CONGRESS-

IONALLY DIRECTED PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE OFFICERS IN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WORLDWIDE. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT WORLDWIDE REDUCTIONS WILL RUN AT 33 PERCENT IN GENERAL OFFICER BILLETS IN THE WORLDWIDE PROGRAM. GIVEN THIS PERCENTAGE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHY, AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT, THE TURKISH JUSMMAT PROGRAM SHOULD SUFFER A 75 PERCENT REDUCTION IN FLAG OFFICERS.

3. I AM SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU PERSONALLY WITH THIS, BUT I ATTACH SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROBLEM TO REQUEST YOUR INTERVENTION WITH THE PENTAGON IF THIS SHOULD BE NECESSARY TO HEADOFF THIS ACTION. IF YOU CANNOT HEAD IT OFF, IT THINK THE MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION.

4. AS A MATTER OF GENERAL BACKGROUND, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT JUSMMAT FLAG OFFICERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT HERE IN CONDUCTING US RELATIONS WITH THE TURK MILITARY AND THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW SITUATIONS WHERE I WOULD PREFER TO LOSE A GOOD MANY INDIANS AHEAD OF THEIR CHIEFS. THIS IS SO BECAUSE THE SENIOR TURKISH MILITARY ARE VERY RANK CONSCIOUS AND THE TURK GENERALS WHO COUNT SIMPLY DO NOT DEAL WITH AMERICAN COLONELS. THEREFORE, EVEN IF WE WERE NOT IN SUCH A DIFFICULT MOMENT IN OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, I WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO OUR TAKING MORE THAN OUR SHARE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED FLAG OFFICER REDUCTIONS.

5. ONE FINAL CONSIDERATION. JUSMMAT IS PROBABLY THE NUMBER ONE OR NUMBER TWO TURK TARGET WHEN AND IF THE TIME COMES FOR TURKISH RETALIATION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF. THUS, THE JCS MAY, BEFORE TOO LONG, FIND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, IN EFFECT, BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR THEM BY THE TURKS. TO BEAT THE TURKS TO THE PUNCH IN THIS WAY, HOWEVER, COULD SIMPLY FORCE THEM TO DIRECT INITIAL RETALIATORY ACTION AT ANOTHER TARGET AGAINST WHICH THEY MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE MOVED MORE SLOWLY.
MACOMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA02902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-1031
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750460/aaaacdda.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDUCTION IN JUSMMAT GENERAL/FLAG POSITIONS
TAGS: MILI, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006